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IELWA
PMC/DFC
M.209

TOP SECRET - 1 - TICOM/I-154

INTERROGATION OF UFFZ. RUDOLPH SCHNEIDER

OF In 7/VI

1. Attached is a report of the preliminary interrogation of SCHNEIDER carried out at Dustbin on 28th Sept. 1945 by Capt. J. C. Adams, AUS, and Lt. E.A. Whitney, AUS.

2. P/W worked exclusively on American systems, mainly on the M 209.

3. The report has been forwarded from S.I.D., USFET.

TICOM

23 October 1945 No. of pages 3.

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I. Personal data:

Prisoner was born in Hagen in 1910, went to Technische Hochschule in Munich, became a mechanical engineer, is married. Trip to America as tourist in 1934. From May 1935, to September 1940, worked in Bangkok for B. Grimm and Co. This firm dealt with imports to Siam, maintained a buying office in Hamburg. During his tour with Grimm, prisoner did not return to Europe, thereby, incidentally, avoiding compulsory military service. Return to Europe in 1940 was via Japan, Siberia, and European Russia, whereafter prisoner went into the reserve and worked briefly for a foundry machinery firm.

II. Military History.

1940 - Spent eight weeks in basic training for job as interpreter with rank of Sonderfuehrer. Nothing came of this training since demand for interpreters at this time was small.

Feb. 42 - Called up to Nachr. Dolmetscher Ers. Abt. (Meissen) for three months' course, including basic training, Morse sending and receiving, and English military translating.

May 42 - Transferred to Nachr. Betriebs Abt., Berlin, under OKH, as cryptanalyst, having had no special training for the work. This unit became IN 7/VI, under Maj. Mettich, who was replaced in Jan/Feb 43 by Maj. Lechner. After two years, Schneider attained the rank of Uffz.

Mid 44 - Transferred from U. S. Department to Maschinen Referat, whose C.O. was Doering.

End 44 - IN 7/VI became Gruppe 6, Gen. d. N.A. Gruppe 6 transferred from Berlin to Jueterbog in 1943, to Reichenhall in Feb. 1945.

III. Operational Experience.

Schneider worked exclusively on American traffic, has no knowledge of German systems.

A. One American system on which P/W worked was a polyalphabetic cipher composed of 25 different random alphabets - P/W thought they were probably in the form of sliding strips, or possibly a machine was used. A daily numerical key, derived from a key word or phrase, determined the sequency of the alphabets. Twenty-five plain-text letters could be enciphered at a time by setting them up on the sliding strips and taking any other line of letters as the cipher text. The alphabets had been reconstructed by the time P/W began work in the department, and cryptanalysis of this system consisted merely in determining the arrangement of the strips. P/W could not recall the details of the process but stated that it involved the assumption of a probable word and the subsequent use of Hollerith cards. This system was discontinued early in 1944, up to which time a fair number of messages had been read, dealing chiefly with supply matters. Schneider thinks the system was used only up to division.

B. A second system was a five letter, pronounceable code. Since a copy of the code book was available, - Schneider assumes it had been captured - and since there was no re-encipherment, cryptanalysis presented few complications. Frequent transmission garbles and a number of missing pages in the copy available provided the only difficulties. The code was a large one, however, and alphabetical; as a result, complete success was achieved more often than not. This system, too, was discontinued early in 1944. Prisoner thinks it was in use at a relatively high level and remembers Stillwell as a frequent signator.

C. Various P.M.C.'s especially those emanating from Africa, were dealt with comparatively easily. They had little value unless broken within a few hours.

D. Four-letter D.F.C.'s were attacked, but broken only after capture of the code books. Schneider believes he remembers that 17 and 27 were captured and exploited.

E. Prisoner's principal work since Jan/Feb 43 was on the M.209 Converter. The strip system messages referred to in paragraph A above contained frequent references to the Converter, about which nothing was known in the early stages. It was noticed that messages sent in this system contained identical first and initial groups.

This fact suggested an analogy with the French machine C-36, with which the Germans were already familiar.

Machines and instructions were eventually captured but, in the meantime, solution had been affected.

This work was occasionally performed by the AUSSENSTELLEN, who forwarded their results to GRUPPE 6.
Only the Paris Aussenstelle (WM. ENGELHARDT and OBGEFR. PRITSCHING)

Prisoner believes M.209 used only up to division, should have been used at higher levels in preference to SLIDE which has less security.

F. Attempts were made without success to solve U.S. teleprinter traffic.

No translation or evaluation were carried out at Gruppe 6. Broken messages were typed and sent to Gen. d. N.A.

Cooperation between departments of the army under Gen. d. N.A., and with the other services of the Wehrmacht, was virtually non-existent.

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